Testimonial in support of MI Senate Bill 169: 09 FEB 2013

"SEC. 664. (1) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTIONS (2) AND (4), AN AUTOMATED VEHICLE MAY BE OPERATED ON THE HIGHWAYS OR STREETS OF THIS STATE BY EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS, OR OTHER PERSONS DESIGNATED BY MANUFACTURERS OF AUTOMATED TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PURPOSE OF TESTING THE TECHNOLOGY"

Submitted By: Corey Clothier

Subject: Michigan Leads Automotive R&D via Automated Vehicle Test-Beds

Our automotive OEMs, domestic and foreign, are developing automated vehicles for consumers, commercial use and the military. This vision of "re-inventing" the automobile will create safer, sustainable mobility that are green, smart, connected, and a pleasure to "operate". Technologies expanding from current "driver-assist" technologies such as traction control and adaptive cruise are already evolving to higher order automation in new features like, crash avoidance, traffic-jam assist and automated valet parking. The inevitable future includes fully automated vehicles that use public streets and highways.

The question is: "What is Michigan's role in this rapid evolution of automotive development?"

My name is Corey Clothier and I am working to accelerate the development of automated vehicle systems in the U.S. My passion for leading this technology revolution starts with our military service members and extends to our nation. The US Department of Defense (DOD) is actively and aggressively working to develop and field automated vehicles to save lives and tax-payer dollars. The U.S. Department of Defense, which operates the largest vehicle fleet in the world, has been directed by congress to convert 1/3 of their combat vehicle fleet to unmanned by 2015; approximately 150,000 military vehicles that will have robotic operational capability in just a few years. The research and development effort is being led by Warren, MI based Army R&D lab, TARDEC Ground Vehicle Robotics.

So we have established that the auto OEMs, defense contractors and the DOD are all working diligently to develop automated vehicle technologies. **Where is the R&D work being done?** Much of the R&D work is centered in Michigan. Michigan is the home for the domestic automotive OEMs (GM, Ford, Chrysler/Fiat), major research and development operation of 3 more major foreign OEMs (Toyota, Nissan, Hyundai), and to a community of over 350 automotive and defense development organizations. The University of Michigan is also heavily involved with both DOD and DOT vehicle automation development projects (UMTRI, CVPC, SMART).

Where are these vehicles being tested?

These vehicles and their subcomponents have been operating on closed test-tracks, but we're at the stage where we need "real-world" testing, much like the connected vehicle (Safety) pilot in Ann Arbor. Consider the regional opportunities that are being realized with this current DOT Safety Pilot. Winning that contract reinforced MI's assets and leadership role. We need to leverage the great work by UMTRI and expand the regional opportunity by supporting automated vehicle development and testing on Michigan streets and highways.

NV, FL and CA have stepped up and have passed legislation enabling testing of automated vehicle on their public roadways. We have the assets in Michigan to take a leadership role in automotive automation and intelligent transportation systems (ITS). Our automotive development assets are perfectly suited for this transition. We have the mission, the people, the R&D centers and the proving grounds. What we need are local "test-beds". The developers will not and cannot hesitate to test their systems in other states if Michigan isn't ready. The opportunities are too large and coming too fast to wait.

I propose to pass Bill 169 allowing Michigan to join the front-runners in automated vehicle development. Allowing for controlled, supervised testing of these vehicles on public streets and highways will put Michigan back in the running for a leadership role. I personally believe, "if you would it, they will come"...primarily, because they are already here. Let's not force our Michigan auto developers to test their systems elsewhere. Let's save them time and money and enable the testing here at home and regain our leadership role in automotive R&D.

Respectfully,

Corey Clothier
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